

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) A charging system according to claim 1, comprising:
a first client apparatus;
a second client apparatus;
a server apparatus which provides at least one service to said first client apparatus and said second client apparatus via a network;
a charging apparatus connected to said network in order to charge said first client apparatus and said second client apparatus with respect to the provision of said at least one service;
a first processing apparatus which is connected to said network in order to control the provision of said at least one service from said server apparatus to said first client apparatus and accumulate information for charging by said charging apparatus with respect to said at least one service when said at least one service is provided to said first client apparatus via said first processing apparatuses; and
a second processing apparatus which is connected to said network in order to control the provision of said at least one service from said server apparatus to said second client apparatus and accumulate information for charging by said charging apparatus with respect to said at least one service when said at least one service is provided to said second client apparatus via said second processing apparatuses; and
a third processing apparatus which [[has]] comprises a cyclic unit which includes a circulation list specifying a circulation order and which circulates from said third processing apparatus to said first processing apparatus, from said first processing apparatus to said second processing apparatus, and from said second

processing apparatus to said third processing apparatus via said network in accordance with said circulation order in order to collect the information for charging accumulated in said first processing apparatus and said second processing apparatus; and

further comprising a plurality of the at least one service, and wherein said cyclic unit is a first cyclic unit corresponding to a first one of the services, said third processing apparatus has at least one second cyclic unit corresponding to a second one of the services, and said first and at least one second cyclic units each collect said information for charging in said first processing apparatus for its corresponding service and said second processing apparatus for its corresponding service.

3. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 2, wherein each of said cyclic units of the third processing specifies a different time to start its circulation from said third processing apparatus to said first processing apparatus, from said first processing apparatus to said second processing apparatus, and from said second processing apparatus to said third processing apparatus.

4. (Currently amended) A charging system according to claim 1, comprising:
a first client apparatus;
a second client apparatus;
a server apparatus which provides at least one service to said first client apparatus and said second client apparatus via a network;
a charging apparatus connected to said network in order to charge said first client apparatus and said second client apparatus with respect to the provision of said at least one service;
a first processing apparatus which is connected to said network in order to control the provision of said at least one service from said server apparatus to said first client apparatus and accumulate information for charging by said charging

apparatus with respect to said at least one service when said at least one service is provided to said first client apparatus via said first processing apparatuses; and
a second processing apparatus which is connected to said network in order to control the provision of said at least one service from said server apparatus to said second client apparatus and accumulate information for charging by said charging apparatus with respect to said at least one service when said at least one service is provided to said second client apparatus via said second processing apparatuses; and

a third processing apparatus which [[has]] comprises a cyclic unit which includes a circulation list specifying a circulation order and which circulates from said third processing apparatus to said first processing apparatus, from said first processing apparatus to said second processing apparatus, and from said second processing apparatus to said third processing apparatus via said network in accordance with said circulation order in order to collect the information for charging accumulated in said first processing apparatus and said second processing apparatus; and

wherein said at least one service is a plurality of services, and said cyclic unit is a single cyclic unit that collects said information for charging accumulated in said first processing apparatus and said second processing apparatus for every one of said plurality of services.

5. (Previously presented): A system according to claim 4, wherein each of said first processing apparatus accumulates said information for charging of said plurality of services.

6. (Currently amended) A system according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein said first processing apparatus controls the provision of said at least one service to one of client apparatuses from said server apparatus with reference to

an amount of money which has been predetermined by said one of client apparatus for the purpose of providing said at least one service.

7. (Currently amended) A system according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein said first processing apparatus controls the provision of said at least one service to one of client apparatuses from said server apparatus with reference to a time which has been predetermined by said one of client apparatus for the purpose of providing said at least one service.

8. (Currently amended): A system according to claim [[1]] 2, further comprising a management terminal connected to the third processing apparatus for inputting the circulation list and other information for controlling operation of the charging system.

9. (Currently amended) A system according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein said first processing apparatuses apparatus is connected to at least one of plurality of client apparatuses.

10. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 9, wherein each first processing apparatus generates the information for charging with respect to the at least one client apparatus to which it is connected.

11.-12. (canceled)

13. (Currently amended): A system according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein said first processing apparatus is a first router apparatus and said second processing apparatus is a second router apparatus and said third processing apparatus is a managing apparatus which has a function of managing the charging system.

14. (Currently amended): A system according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein said second processing apparatus further has a storage unit, the circulation list further being stored in said storage unit.

15. (Currently amended) A system according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein said circulation list further specifies a circulation period for circulation of the cyclic unit among the plurality of first processing apparatuses.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) A system according to claim 4, wherein said first processing apparatus controls the provision of said at least one service to one of client apparatuses from said server apparatus with reference to an amount of money which has been predetermined by said one of client apparatus for the purpose of providing said at least one service.

18. (New) A system according to claim 4, wherein said first processing apparatus controls the provision of said at least one service to one of client apparatuses from said server apparatus with reference to a time which has been predetermined by said one of client apparatus for the purpose of providing said at least one service.

19. (New): A system according to claim 4, further comprising a management terminal connected to the third processing apparatus for inputting the circulation list and other information for controlling operation of the charging system.

20. (New) A system according to claim 4, wherein said first processing apparatus is connected to at least one of plurality of client apparatuses.

21. (New) A system according to claim 20, wherein each first processing apparatus generates the information for charging with respect to the at least one client apparatus to which it is connected.
22. (New) A system according to claim 4, wherein said first processing apparatus is a first router apparatus and said second processing apparatus is a second router apparatus and said third processing apparatus is a managing apparatus which has a function of managing the charging system.
23. (New) A system according to claim 4, wherein said second processing apparatus further has a storage unit, the circulation list further being stored in said storage unit.
24. (New) A system according to claim 4, wherein said circulation list further specifies a circulation period for circulation of the cyclic unit among the plurality of first processing apparatuses.